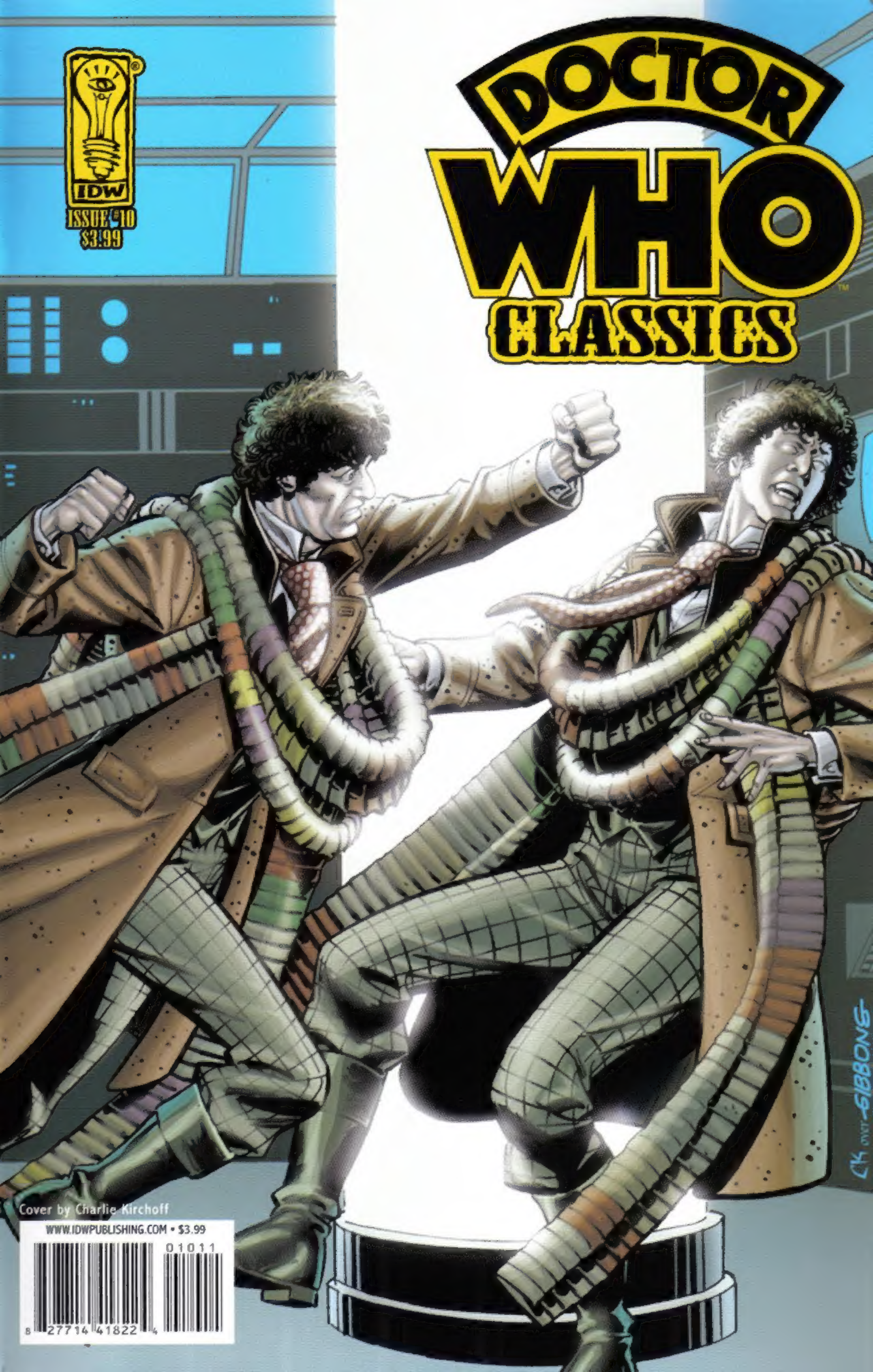
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PRESENTS

DOCTOR WHO
THE COLLECTOR

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DOCTOR WHO
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THE COLLECTOR

BY JOVE! I DO BELIEVE I'VE GOT IT!

BLACKCASTLE ROA

WRITER: STEVE MOORE / ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR: PAUL NEARY

IN SPITE OF THE RANDOMISER IN THE CONTROLS, I'VE ACTUALLY GOT YOU HOME, SHARON!
TWENTIETH CENTURY BLACKCASTLE, ENGLAND, EARTH!
REALLY, DOCTOR...?

ONLY TROUBLE IS, I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO HOME NOW...NOT NOW I'VE GROWN UP!
OH, OF COURSE YOU DO! 'NO PLACE LIKE HOME'!
WHY, I EVEN LIKE GALLIFREY ...SOMETIMES...

BUT, JUST AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO STEP OUTSIDE...
BLIMEY, DOCTOR... LOOK OUT!
WHAT'S THAT?

I'D GUESS WE'VE BEEN PICKED UP BY A TELEPORT-BEAM ...AND IT'S TAKEN THE WHOLE TARDIS WITH IT...
SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE, I KNOW, BUT...

AND THEN THE TARDIS MAKES ITS SECOND MATERIALISATION IN A MATTER OF MINUTES...
I THINK SOMEONE WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH US...

SO NOW WHERE ARE WE, DOCTOR?
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL FROM THIS, WE SEEM TO BE IN THE ASTEROID BELT...
BUT IT APPEARS THERE'S A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE OUTSIDE...

BUT WHEN THEY EMERGE...
HMM...A COMPLETELY EMPTY ROOM! NO SIGN OF A TELEPORT-MACHINE IN HERE ...BUT IT CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!
THESE DOORS ARE LOCKED, DOCTOR!

WELL, WE WON'T LET THAT STOP US HAVING A LOOK ROUND...

STAND BACK, SHARON! K-9 CAN ALWAYS USE SOME MORE PRACTISE IN OPENING DOORS!

WOMPF!

AND THERE IS STILL NO SIGN OF A RECEPTION COMMITTEE AS THEY STEP OUT INTO A CORRIDOR...

NO POINT TRYING TO BREAK A WINDOW AND RUN AWAY...

THEY MUST BE ARMOUR-PLATED GLASS TO KEEP THE ATMOSPHERE IN...

AND BESIDES, THERE DOESN'T REALLY SEEM TO BE ANY-WHERE TO GO...

WHAT ABOUT THESE FUNNY LOOKING DOOR-WAYS, THEN?

AH! A PLASMATIC FORCE-FIELD! MEANT TO STOP ANYONE GOING THROUGH ... OR SEEING THROUGH!

STILL, I EXPECT MY OLD SONIC SCREW-DRIVER'LL SCRAMBLE THE MECHANISM QUITE NICELY...

BUT MAYBE WE CAN TALK ANOTHER DAY...!
YOU CALLED, SIR...?

ER... BYE!
AND THAT'S ANOTHER ODD THING! WE'VE BOTH BEEN TALKING FLUENT LATIN FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MINUTES... I ONLY JUST REALISED...

IT'S AS IF WE'D STEPPED INTO A FROZEN MOMENT OF TIME... WHERE EVERYTHING'S EXACTLY AS IT WAS THEN...
BLIMEY! LOOK AT US NOW!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE... EVERYONE IS LOOKING AT US!
EXCUSE US... JUST PASSING THROUGH!

AND AT LAST...
PHEW! BACK IN THE CORRIDOR AGAIN! HELLO, K-9!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE UP TO?
I BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR MY TWENTIETH CENTURY ROOM... NOT TO CREATE HAVOC IN THE THIRD AND EIGHTEENTH!

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE UP TO? KIDNAPPING PEOPLE BY TELEPORT-BEAM AND KEEPING THEM IN TIME-STASIS CAPSULES?
HMM... THIS IS STRANGE! I DIDN'T THINK YOU EARTH-PEOPLE HAD SUCH ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE
NONE OF MY OTHER SPECIMENS DO!

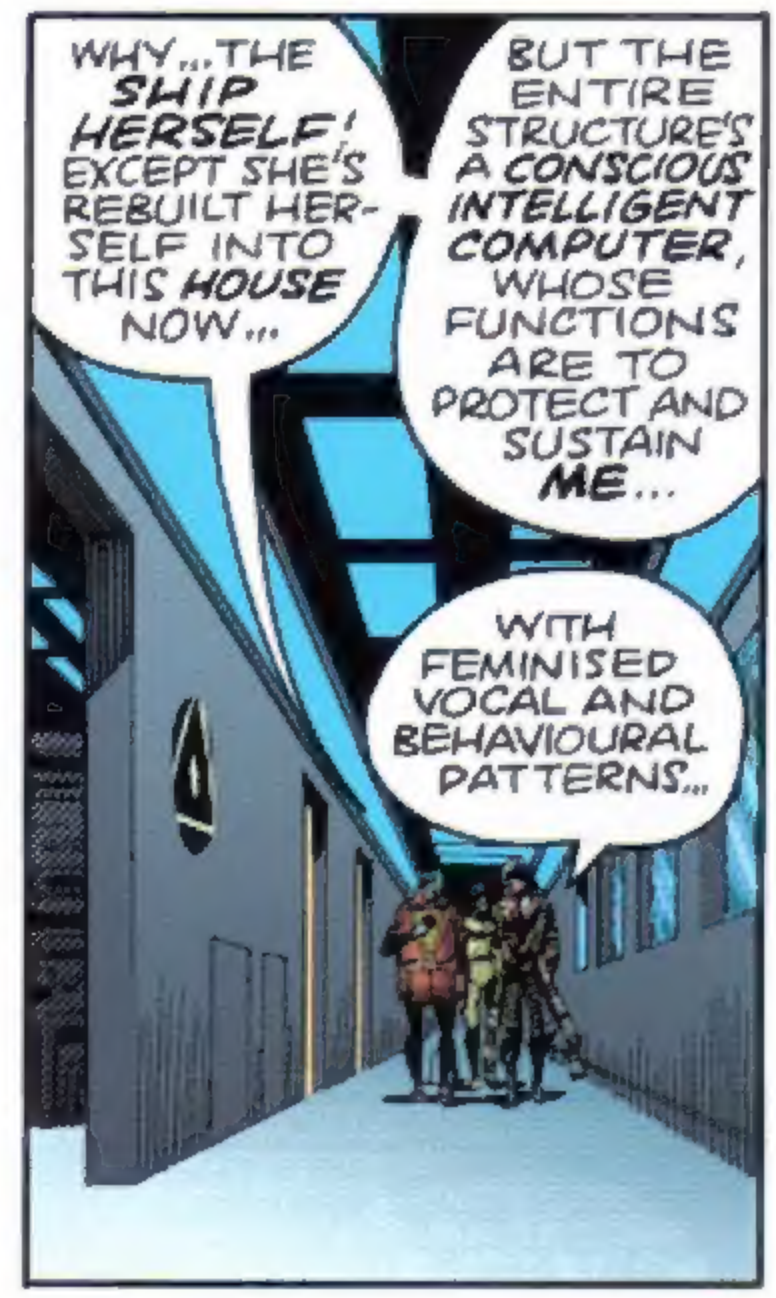
PROBABLY BECAUSE NONE OF YOUR OTHER 'SPECIMENS' ARE TIME-LORDS FROM GALLIFREY!
ACCORDING TO THIS SCANNER, YOU'VE GOT TWO HEART-BEATS!
OH DEAR! I KNEW SHE'D MAKE A MISTAKE SOONER OR LATER!

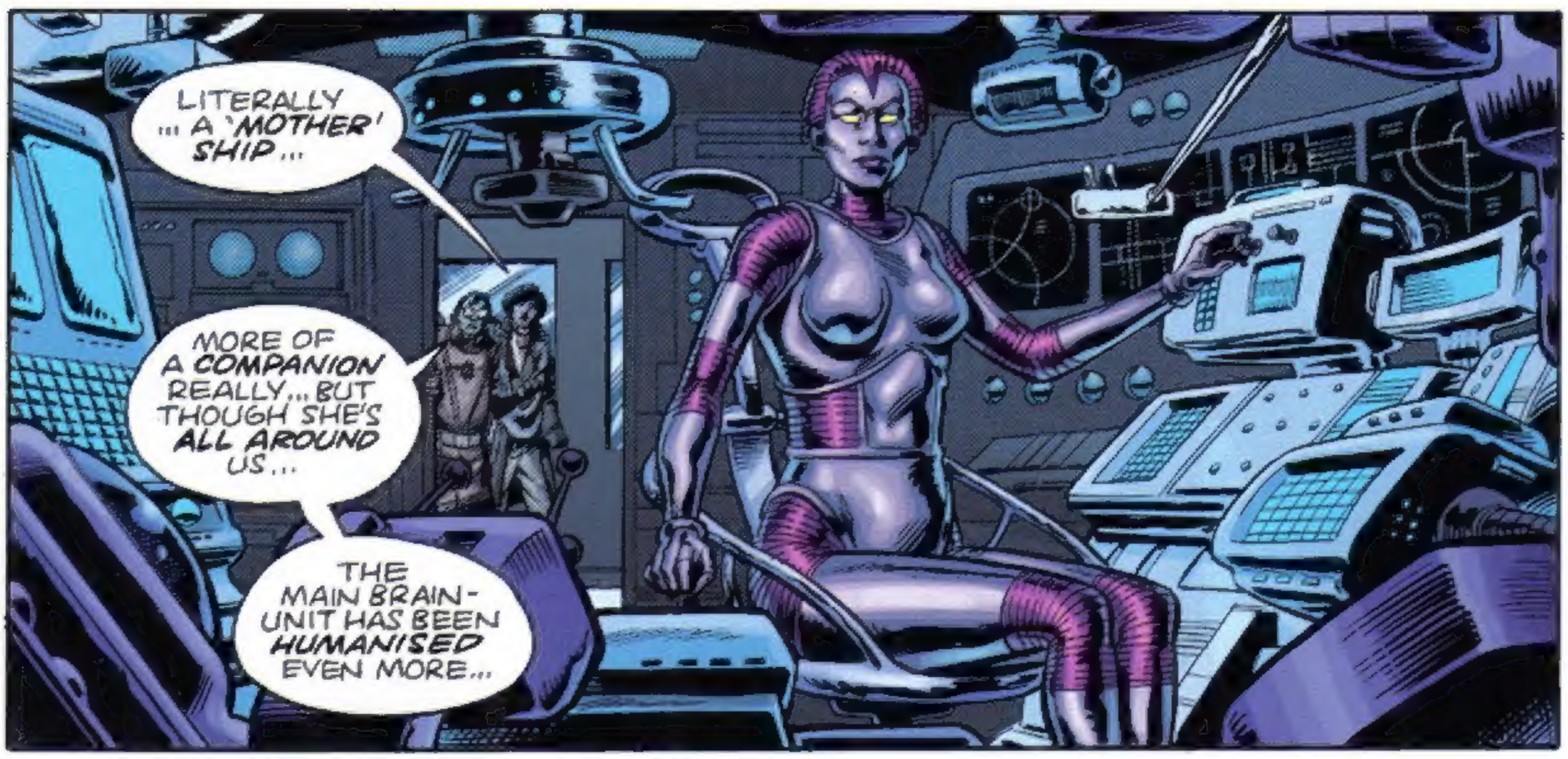
FUNNY THAT... I DIDN'T THINK EARTH HAD MANY OFF-PLANET VISITORS!
WELL, I'LL GET HER TO SEND YOU BACK! SORRY YOU'VE BEEN TROUBLED!
JUST LIKE THAT? I THINK WE DESERVE AN EXPLANATION, AT LEAST!

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU DO! I'M VARAN TAK, FROM THE ANTHROPOLOGY UNIT ON OSKERION...
I WAS GOING TO EARTH TO STUDY THE DEVELOPING CIVILISATION THERE... WHEN WAS IT? ABOUT TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO...! WE WERE THIS CLOSE WHEN A ROGUE ASTEROID KNOCKED OUT THE DRIVE-UNIT... AND MOST OF THE COMMUNICATIONS, TOO...
"PROBABLY STILL BE ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE OUR DISTRESS CALL'S PICKED UP! I'LL BE MIDDLE-AGED BY THEN!"

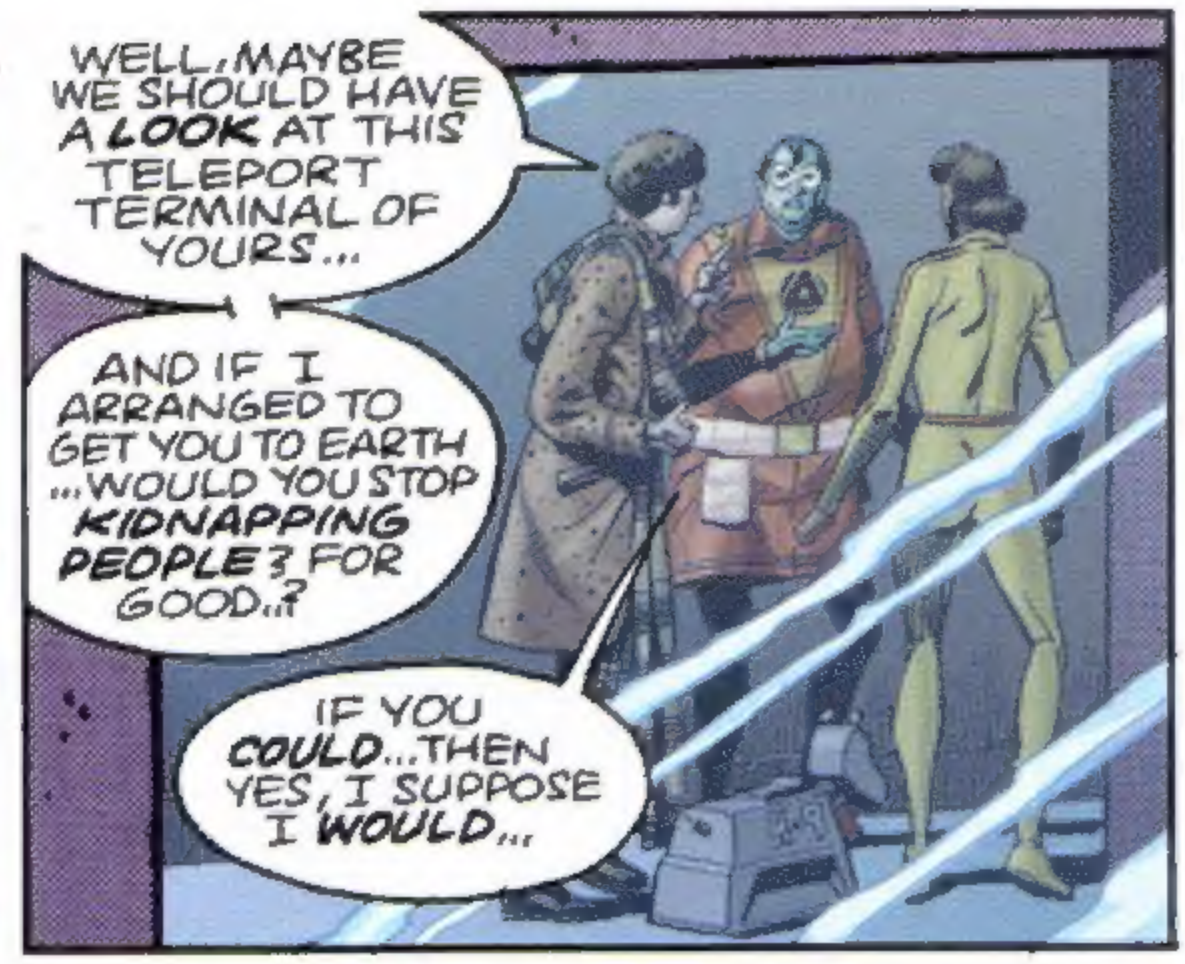
SHE MANAGED TO PUT US DOWN HERE... AND SHE'S BUILT ALL THIS TO KEEP ME ALIVE AND COMFORTABLE...
ALONG WITH THE SHORT-RANGE TELEPORT TERMINAL... USEFUL THAT...

THAT'S HOW I PICK UP SPECIMENS FOR MY ANTHROPOLOGICAL COLLECTION... OH, MAYBE IT'S WRONG TO KIDNAP THEM... BUT STUDY KEEPS ME SANE...
PERHAPS! BUT WHO'S THIS 'SHE'?


WHY... THE SHIP HERSELF! EXCEPT SHE'S REBUILT HERSELF INTO THIS HOUSE NOW...
BUT THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE'S A CONSCIOUS INTELLIGENT COMPUTER, WHOSE FUNCTIONS ARE TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN ME...
WITH FEMINISED VOCAL AND BEHAVIOURAL PATTERNS...


LITERALLY... A 'MOTHER' SHIP...
MORE OF A COMPANION REALLY... BUT THOUGH SHE'S ALL AROUND US...
THE MAIN BRAIN-UNIT HAS BEEN HUMANISED EVEN MORE...

BUT WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELEPORT TO EARTH YOURSELF?
HOW I WISH I COULD! SHE'LL AGREE TO SEND YOU BACK...
BUT FOR SOME REASON SHE REFUSES TO LET ME LEAVE!


WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE A LOOK AT THIS TELEPORT TERMINAL OF YOURS...
AND IF I ARRANGED TO GET YOU TO EARTH ...WOULD YOU STOP KIDNAPPING PEOPLE? FOR GOOD...?
IF YOU COULD...THEN YES, I SUPPOSE I WOULD...

BUT...
SEE! I CAN'T GET NEAR IT... THAT COMES ON AUTOMATICALLY EVERY TIME I APPROACH!
HMM...NASTY LITTLE ELECTRIC ARC PROJECTOR UP THERE...BIT TOO COMPLICATED FOR THE SONIC SCREWDRIVER...
THIS IS A JOB FOR YOU, K-9 ...PINPOINT BLASTING!

ZZZK
ALRIGHT, VARAN TAK, THAT SHOULD HAVE CLEARED UP THE PROBLEM...SO THAT'S OUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN!
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOURS!

I WILL ...AND I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL!
WELL, THAT SEEMS TO WRAP THAT UP, SHARON!
WASN'T SUCH A BAD SORT, AFTER ALL...

SO LET'S GET BACK TO THE TARDIS BEFORE ...OOPS!
WHAT... HAVE YOU DONE?

K-9... SWITCH TO ELECTRONIC SCRAMBLE...
OH, NO!
SZZZZK!
K-9!

POOR OLD K-9! WHAT WILL I DO WITHOUT YOU?
DOCTOR ... THE ROBOT...
FOOLS! ALL OF YOU ...AND VARAN TAK MOST OF ALL!

BUT AS THE TELEPORT GLOWS INTO REVERSE...
TOO LATE! I TRIED TO PROTECT YOU, VARAN TAK... FOR YOU WERE FULL OF NATURAL LIFE...
DEAD? OH DEAR... THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN...
AND NOW YOU ARE... SO DEAD...

POISONED...HE HAD NO RESISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION... IN YOUR EARTH'S AIR...
THAT'S WHY... IN RECENT CENTURIES...I I WOULD NOT LET HIM GO!
SHE SEEMS QUITE UPSET, DOCTOR...FOR A ROBOT...

AND WHY NOT? I HAVE... CHERISHED HIM FOR TWENTY CENTURIES... AND NOW...
EVEN A ROBOT CAN FEEL... LONELY...

BUT THEN...
THE INSTRUMENT READINGS WHEN WE LANDED WERE ODD... PERHAPS THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS...
BUT IT WOULD MEAN NO MORE TELEPORT-KIDNAPPINGS TO KEEP VARAN TAK HAPPY..!
I DO NOT...UNDERSTAND... BUT IF YOU CAN RESTORE HIM TO LIFE!

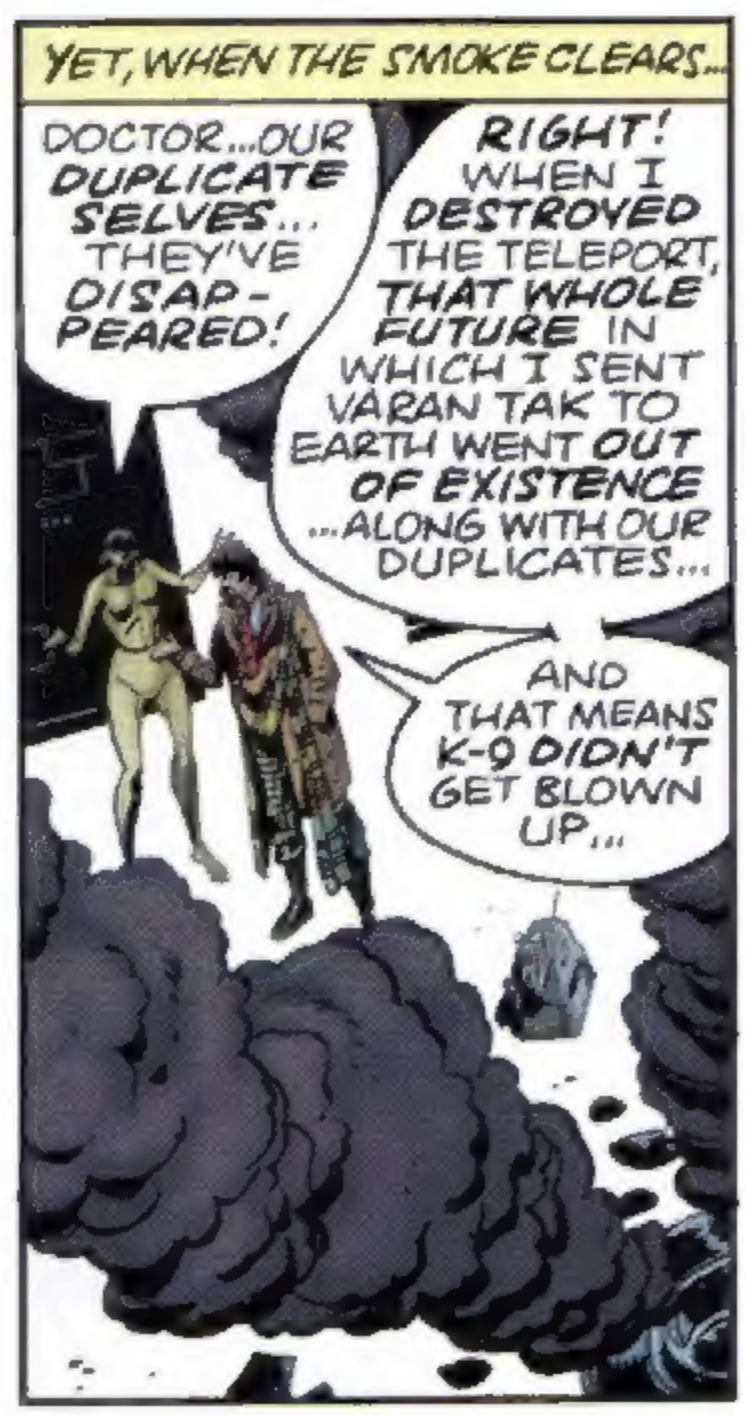
ANOTHER MINUTE FINDS THE THREE WHO REMAIN INSIDE THE TARDIS...
I'M HOPING THE RANDOMISER WON'T COME INTO PLAY... AS WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING ANYWHERE...
BUT I THINK WE CAN UTILISE THE TIME-STASIS FIELDS AROUND US TO DO SOMETHING RATHER CLEVER...

AND WHEN THE TARDIS'S MIGHTY ENGINES AGAIN FADE INTO SILENCE...
WE ARE... STILL IN THE SAME PLACE! HOW CAN THIS HELP?
SAME PLACE... DIFFERENT TIME...I THINK! COME ON...
AND HOPE I'VE GOT THIS RIGHT!

RIGHT INDEED, FOR THEY HAVE HOPPED BACK MERE MINUTES, TO...
HMM... NASTY LITTLE ELECTRIC ARC PROJECTOR UP THERE...BIT TOO COMPLICATED FOR...
ONLY ONE WAY QUICK ENOUGH TO STOP THIS...I'M GOING TO HAVE TO...

SOCK MYSELF ON THE JAW!
WOK!
OOF!

NOW, K-9...BLAST THE TELEPORT DEVICE! COMPLETE DESTRUCTION!
NO!
AND THE ROOM REELS WITH A BLINDING, EXPLOSIVE FLASH...
BA-WOOMPF!


YET, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
DOCTOR...OUR DUPLICATE SELVES... THEY'VE DISAP-PEARED!
RIGHT! WHEN I DESTROYED THE TELEPORT, THAT WHOLE FUTURE IN WHICH I SENT VARAN TAK TO EARTH WENT OUT OF EXISTENCE ...ALONG WITH OUR DUPLICATES...
AND THAT MEANS K-9 DIDN'T GET BLOWN UP...

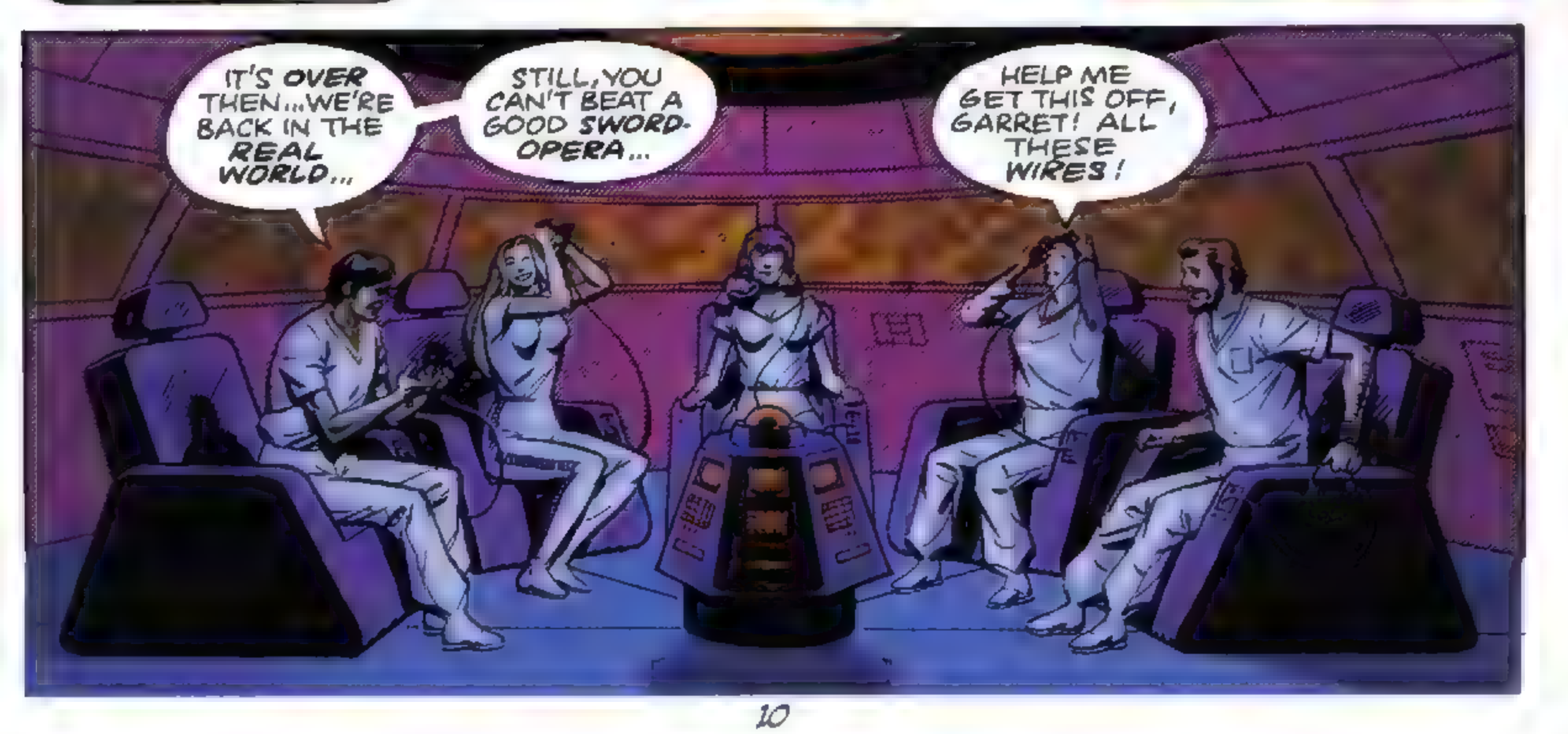
AND VARAN TAK'S STILL ALIVE, TOO!
STILL ALIVE? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO ME?

WELL, I'M SURE SHE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TELL YOU WHILE YOU'RE WAITING TO BE PICKED UP! AFTER ALL, SHE SAW IT HAPPEN...
AND NOW I THINK WE'LL GET BACK TO THE TARDIS ... BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS TO US!
THE END.

DREAMERS OF DEATH
A TIMELESS TALE FROM A SPACELESS PLACE...
WHERE, IN THE WAY OF SUCH THINGS, A HANDSOME HERO STRUGGLES TO SAVE HIS LISSOM LADY...
FIGHT, KARITH! FIGHT! WE CAN DO NOTHING!
ONLY YOU CAN SAVE HER!
Y!!!!!
WRITER: STEVE MOORE / ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR: PAUL NEARY

BLASTED KROADS!
AH, I'M THROUGH THEM!
HURRY, KARITH! IT'S --IT'S ...
IT'S DEAD LYAN!
I WOULDN'T LET THAT BRUTE HARM YOU!

IS SHE SAFE, KARITH?
SHE SURELY IS! AND NOT ONE BEAUTIFUL HAIR OUT OF PLACE!
WELL, REALLY..!
SHH, CAMILLA...
OOOH, KARITH...
MMM...


IT'S OVER THEN...WE'RE BACK IN THE REAL WORLD...
STILL, YOU CAN'T BEAT A GOOD SWORD-OPERA...
HELP ME GET THIS OFF, GARRET! ALL THESE WIRES!

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR DREAM, EVERY-ONE!
YES, INDEED! YOU DREAM A GOOD STORY, SCYLLA!
ACTION, HUMOUR, ROMANCE ... IT WAS EXCELLENT!

AH, WELL, I HAD AN EXCELLENT CAST ...IT MAKES THINGS SO MUCH EASIER...
YOU MAKE A DASHING HERO, KARITH...

AND YOU, LYAN, A CHARMING AND BEAUTIFUL HEROINE! A GOOD MATCH FOR HIM...
TOO RIGHT!

HA! I HAVEN'T SEEN MY DAUGHTER BLUSH LIKE THAT FOR AGES! GO ON, KARITH, SHE'S PROBABLY HEADING FOR THE GARDEN...
NOW, SCYLLA, ABOUT YOUR BILL...

'DREAMS DELUXE' WILL INVOICE YOU AS USUAL, MR BERRACE ...BUT NOW I MUST GET ON TO MY NEXT CLIENT...
IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE DREAMING FOR YOU! GOODBYE...

AND SCYLLA, LIVING AND WORKING IN A WORLD OF DREAMS, HARDLY NOTICES AN UNUSUAL ARRIVAL IN THE REAL WORLD...
AS THE TARDIS PUTS IN AN UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCE...
BY JOVE! IT'S UNICEPTER IV! THAT'S A BIT OF LUCK... I'VE GOT OLD FRIENDS HERE!
BOX
OF COURSE, THEY MIGHT BE YOUNG FRIENDS ...DEPENDS WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED!

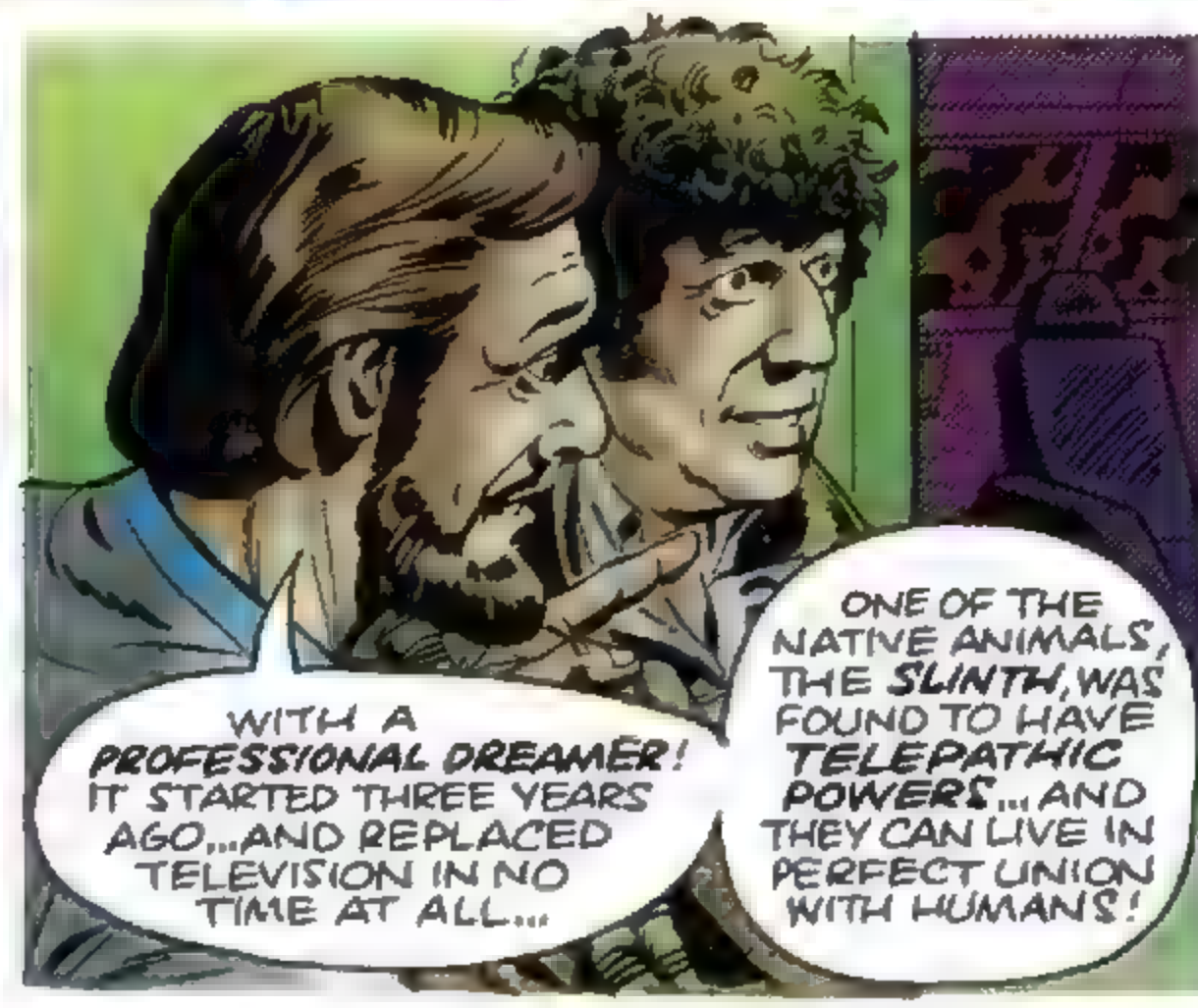
IT'S A FARMING WORLD...MOST OF THE PEOPLE LIVE HERE IN THIS ONE CITY...WHILE ROBOTS DO THE PLANTING AND REAPING...
HMM... THAT'S ODD...

I'D SWEAR THAT WOMAN'S FUR GROWLED AT ME!
YOU MUST BE HEARING THINGS, DOCTOR! COME ON, WHERE ARE YOUR FRIENDS?

AND, SOON ENOUGH...
GARRET BERRACE AND HIS WIFE, CAMILLA! AH, AND WHERE'S THAT LITTLE MINX, LYAN?
LITTLE?... COME ON, DOCTOR, I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU...

AHEM!
DOCTOR! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR...WHAT IS IT, SIX OR SEVEN YEARS?
AND THIS IS KARITH ...THEY'RE TO BE MARRIED AT THE NEXT TWO-MOON FESTIVAL...
WELL, HOW TIME FLIES...AS THEY SAY IN MY LINE OF WORK...

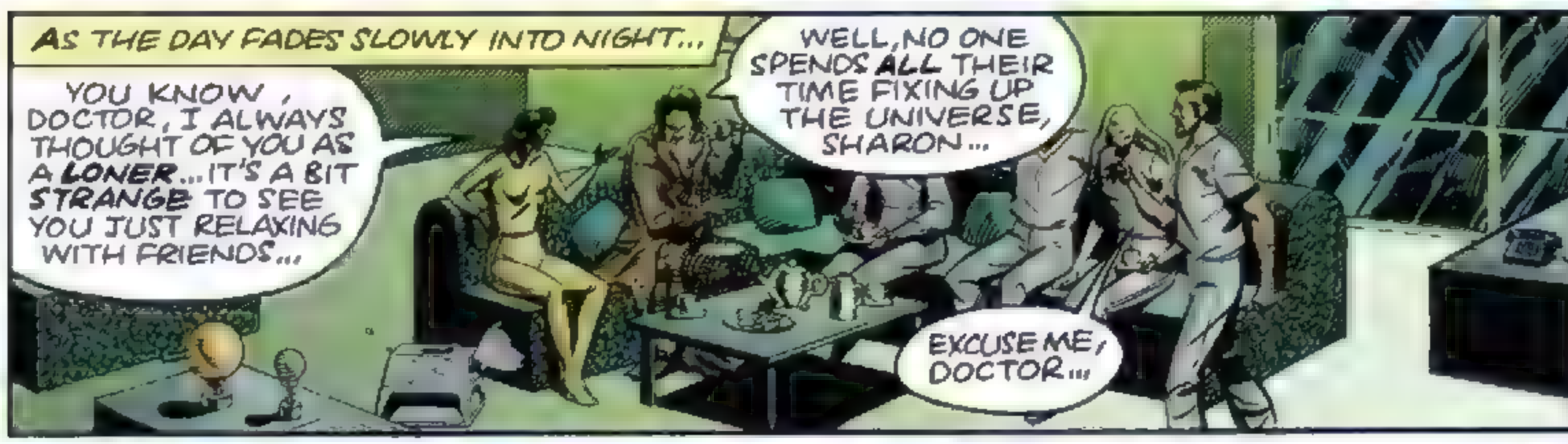
WE'VE BEEN HAVING A LOVELY DREAM, DOCTOR!
WHAT, BOTH OF YOU?
NO, ALL OF US!


WITH A PROFESSIONAL DREAMER! IT STARTED THREE YEARS AGO...AND REPLACED TELEVISION IN NO TIME AT ALL...
ONE OF THE NATIVE ANIMALS, THE SLINTH, WAS FOUND TO HAVE TELEPATHIC POWERS...AND THEY CAN LIVE IN PERFECT UNION WITH HUMANS!

BERRACE LEADS THE DOCTOR INTO HIS HOUSE'S DREAM-ROOM...
THESE HEAD-PIECES CONNECT US TO THE DREAMER...AND WITH THE AID OF THE SLINTH...WE ALL TAKE PART IN A FULLY-CONTROLLED DREAM-STORY...ON WHATEVER SUBJECT WE CHOOSE...
SOME RICH PEOPLE, LIKE LORD VEITH, HAVE PERSONAL DREAMERS ON THEIR PERMANENT STAFF...

OH, DADDY... WE'VE GOT TO GET A DREAMER WHILE THE DOCTOR'S HERE! IT'S THE COMPLETE FRENZY, AFTER ALL!
COMPLETE FRENZY? OH...YOU MEAN IT'S ALL THE RAGE!

WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S NOTHING TOO EXCITING! YOU KNOW WHAT AN UNADVENTUROUS SORT I AM, GARRET...
I'LL SEE IF I CAN HIRE VERNOR ALLEN ...HIS DREAMSCAPES ARE TRULY POETIC...


AS THE DAY FADES SLOWLY INTO NIGHT...
YOU KNOW, DOCTOR, I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS A LONER...IT'S A BIT STRANGE TO SEE YOU JUST RELAXING WITH FRIENDS...
WELL, NO ONE SPENDS ALL THEIR TIME FIXING UP THE UNIVERSE, SHARON...
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR...

I DON'T WANT TO WORRY YOU, DOCTOR, BUT I JUST HEARD THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT! LORD VEITH, HIS DREAMER, AND TWO OTHERS HAVE BEEN KILLED...
THEY THINK IT WAS AN ELECTRICAL FAULT, BUT THEY'RE STILL WORKING THERE...

IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, SO IT'S PROBABLY JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS! STILL, I'LL CHECK ALL MY APPARATUS...
RIGHT ...AND I THINK I'LL HAVE A QUICK WORD WITH K-9...

AND NOT LONG AFTER THE CHECKS HAVE BEEN MADE
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE... I'M VERNOR ALLEN, YOUR DREAMER FOR TONIGHT...
AND I SEE WE'VE GOT OFF-WORLD VISITORS, TOO! THIS IS VERY PLEASANT...

SO THIS IS YOUR SLINTH, VERNOR! ER... IS HE SAFE TO TOUCH?
OF COURSE! A SLINTH IS A DREAMER'S BEST FRIEND! HIS NAME'S MIKI...
HASN'T LEFT MY SHOULDER FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS...

AND ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN THIS DREAM, VERNOR?
I'M AFRAID NOT... THE DREAMER'S TOO BUSY CONTROLLING THINGS...
THAT'S A SHAME...
THEN, AS THEY ENTER THE DREAM-ROOM...
IF YOU'RE ALL COMFORTABLE...? WE'LL BE DREAMING 'THE FIRST LANDING ON THE BLISS-WORLD OF ANSILLAR'... YOU'LL PLAY MEMBERS OF THE SURVEY TEAM...
AH, THERE YOU ARE, K-9... BEHAVE YOUR-SELF...

AND THE NEXT THING THEY KNOW...
BY JOVE! IT'S ALMOST REAL... THE SPACE-SHIP... THE SUIT...

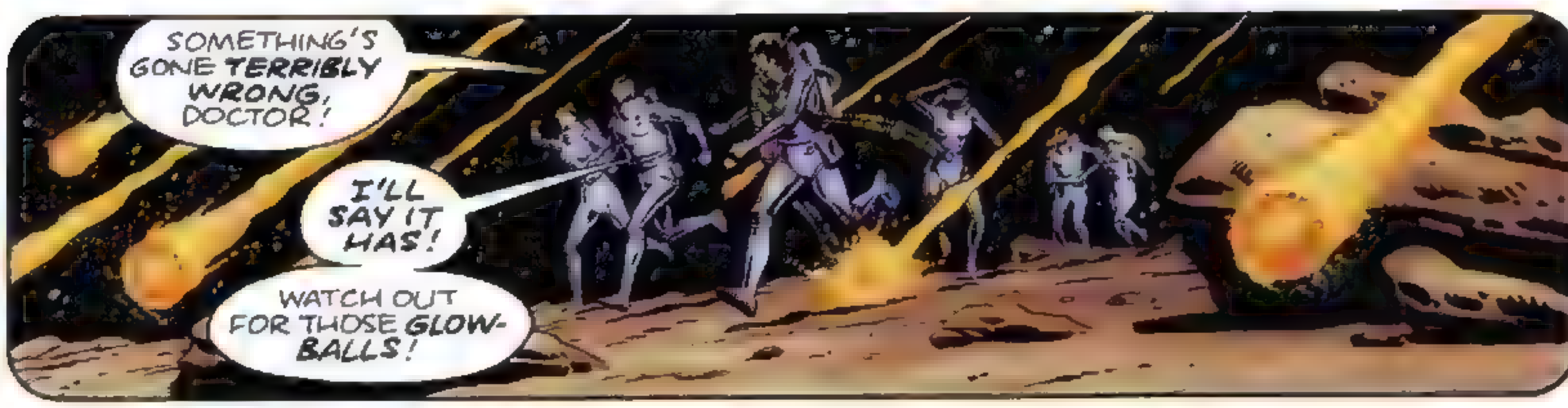
YOU DON'T NEED THE HELMET, DOCTOR ...ANSILLAR'S GOT A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE...
QUITE REMARKABLE! IT EVEN SMELLS LIKE ANOTHER WORLD!

AND LOOK AT THAT CITY ON THE HORIZON... SPARKLING LIKE A JEWEL!
SEVEN MOONS, KARITH ...THAT'S FIVE MORE THAN WE'VE GOT ON UNICEPTER...
AND THEN...
LOOK! A PROCESSION COMING THIS WAY...
AND THAT MUSIC... SO STRANGE... SO HAUNTING...

NOW THAT IS SOME KIND OF WELCOMING COMMITTEE FOR A GROUP OF OFF-WORLDERS!

BUT THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN! IT'S NOT AN ADVENTURE DREAM!
WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY WEAPONS!
BACK TO THE SHIP!

BUT...
NO SHIP!
THEN NOT THAT WAY!
THIS WAY!


SOMETHING'S GONE TERRIBLY WRONG, DOCTOR!
I'LL SAY IT HAS!
WATCH OUT FOR THOSE GLOW-BALLS!

LOOK UP AHEAD! IT'S SOMEONE IN A CAGE!
OH NO! IT'S VERNOR!
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?

I'VE LOST CONTROL SOMEHOW! WE COULD ALL DIE OF MENTAL SHOCK!
THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED TO MIKI AND I BEFORE...
AND WHERE IS YOUR SLINTH?

GOOD LORD!
I'M SORRY I ASKED!
EEEEEE!

ON UNICEPTER IV, DREAMS CAN BE CONTROLLED BY A TELEPATHIC ANIMAL, THE SLINTH. BUT WHEN THE DOCTOR AND SHARON JOIN THEIR FRIENDS IN AN ADVENTURE DREAMED BY VERNOR ALLEN, IT BEGINS TO GO TERRIBLY WRONG...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT US, INTO THIS, VERNOR ...CAN'T YOU DO ANY-THING?
THAT HORDE OF DEAD MEN IS GETTING CLOSER! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!
BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE VERNOR HERE...
AND THE SLINTH'S IN THE OTHER DIRECTION...
MIND YOU, IF THIS IS ONLY A DREAM, NOTHING OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO HURT US... AND...
OH DEAR...
PUT ME DOWN AT ONCE!
DOCTOR!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING, ARE YOU?
DREAMERS OF DEATH

WHILE, IN THE BERRACE'S **DREAM-ROOM**, ALL SEEMS NORMAL EXCEPT...

PULSE-RATE APPROACHING CRITICAL LIMIT... BREATHING QUICKENING...

SEVERING CONNECTION, AS INSTRUCTED!

AND THE DOCTOR IS JERKED BACK TO REALITY WITH SHOCKING SUDDENNESS...

WHAT?! I'M BACK IN THE BERRACE'S HOUSE...

THANKS, K-9...THAT WAS CLOSE...

BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO GET THE **OTHERS** OUT OF TROUBLE TOO!

AND THE EASIEST WAY IS TO CUT THINGS OFF AT THE **SOURCE**... BY TAKING VERNOR'S **DREAM-HELMET** OFF!

AND THEN...

WE'RE **BACK** ...I DIDN'T THINK WE'D **EVER** GET OUT OF THAT ...ESPECIALLY AFTER **YOU** DISAPPEARED, DOCTOR!

THOUGHT THE SLINTH HAD **KILLED YOU**...

OH, KARITH, I'VE GOT SUCH A **HEAD-ACHE**...

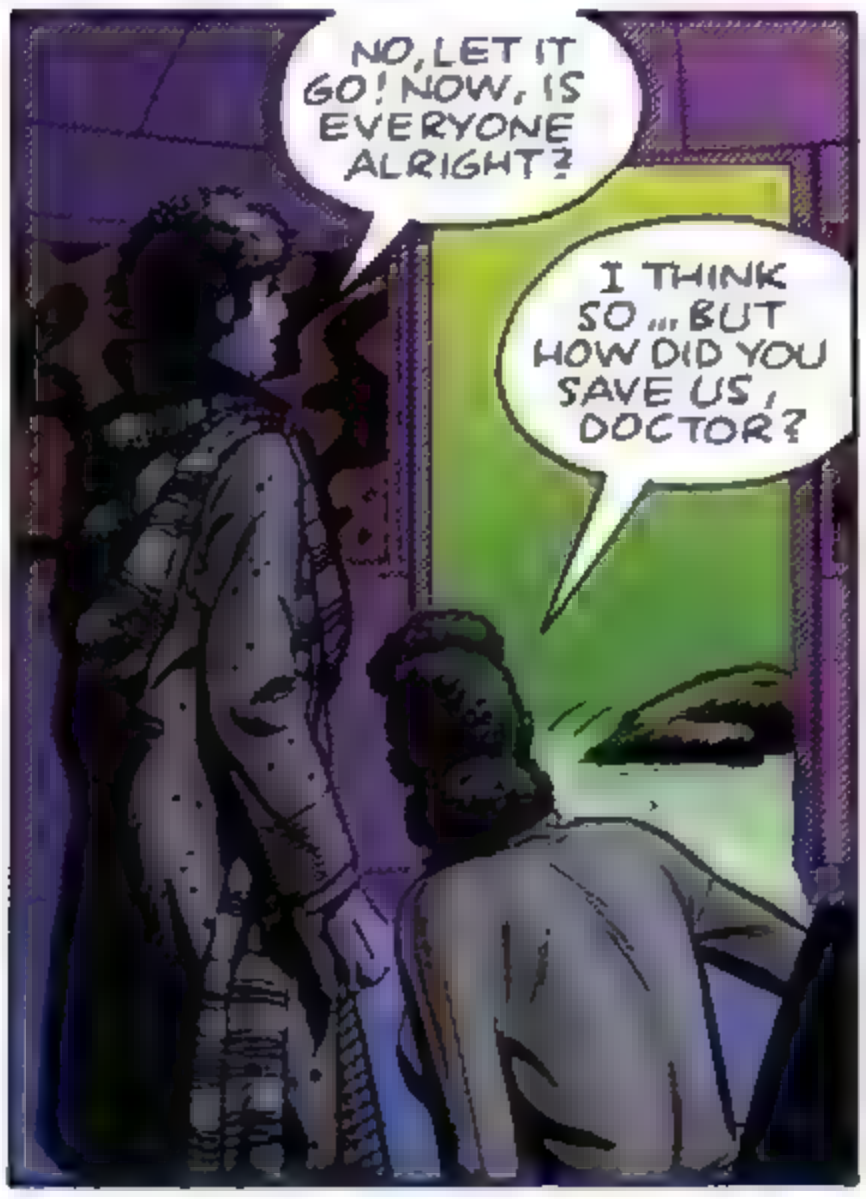
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WENT **WRONG** ...IT WAS AS IF I WAS BEING **TAKEN OVER** ...BY...

...MIKI?

GRRRR...

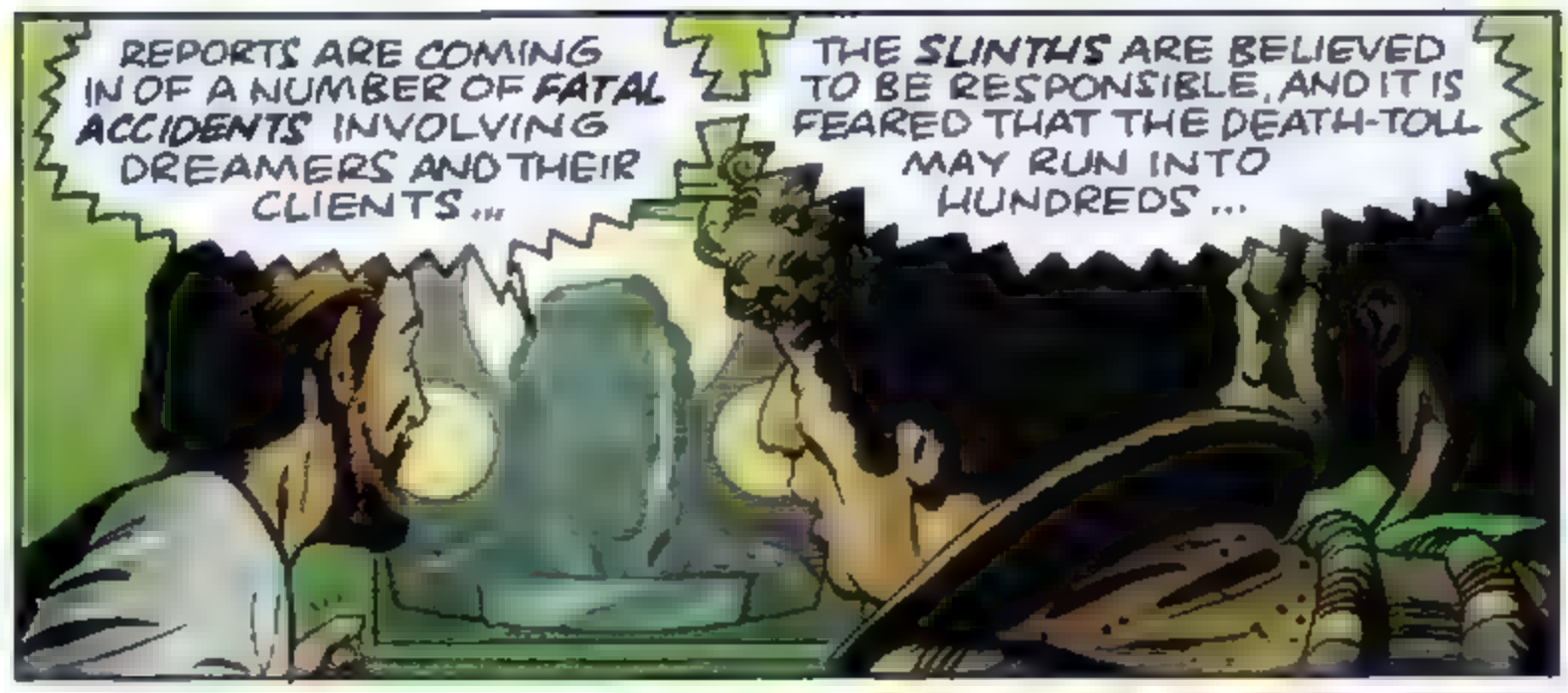
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, VERNOR...THIS THING'S DANGEROUS...
SNARRR!

IT LOOKS ALMOST... BLOATED!
MIKI! COME BACK!


NO, LET IT GO! NOW, IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
I THINK SO... BUT HOW DID YOU SAVE US, DOCTOR?

I WAS SUSPICIOUS WHEN I HEARD ABOUT LORD VEITH BEING KILLED... AND AS THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PEACE-FUL, POETIC DREAM...
I TOLD K-9 TO MONITOR MY REACTIONS... SO IF I GOT TOO EXCITED, HE'D BREAK THE CONNECTION...

BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ...WE'VE NEVER HAD TROUBLE WITH SLINTHS BEFORE...
HOLD ON ...THAT'S THE GENERAL ALARM SIREN ...I'D BETTER SWITCH ON THE VIS-NEWS!

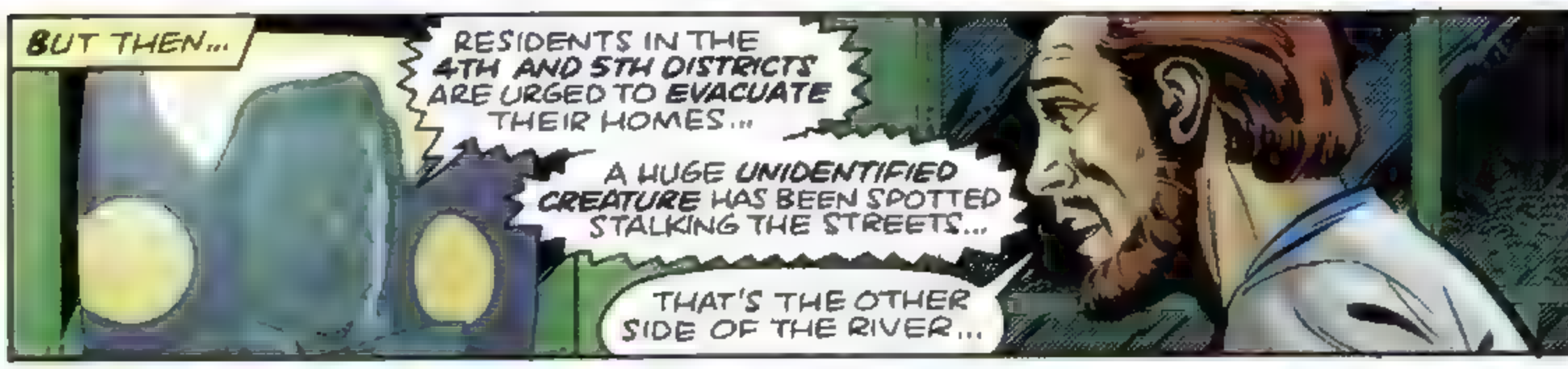

REPORTS ARE COMING IN OF A NUMBER OF FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DREAMERS AND THEIR CLIENTS...
THE SLINTHS ARE BELIEVED TO BE RESPONSIBLE, AND IT IS FEARED THAT THE DEATH-TOLL MAY RUN INTO HUNDREDS...

YOU ARE THEREFORE ADVISED NOT TO DREAM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES...
SLINTHS ARE TO BE REGARDED AS VERMIN AND DESTROYED!

THIS IS TERRIBLE! SLINTHS ARE GOOD ...THEY GIVE US DREAMS...
BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GIVING THEM ANYTHING IN RETURN ... AND NOTHING'S FREE!

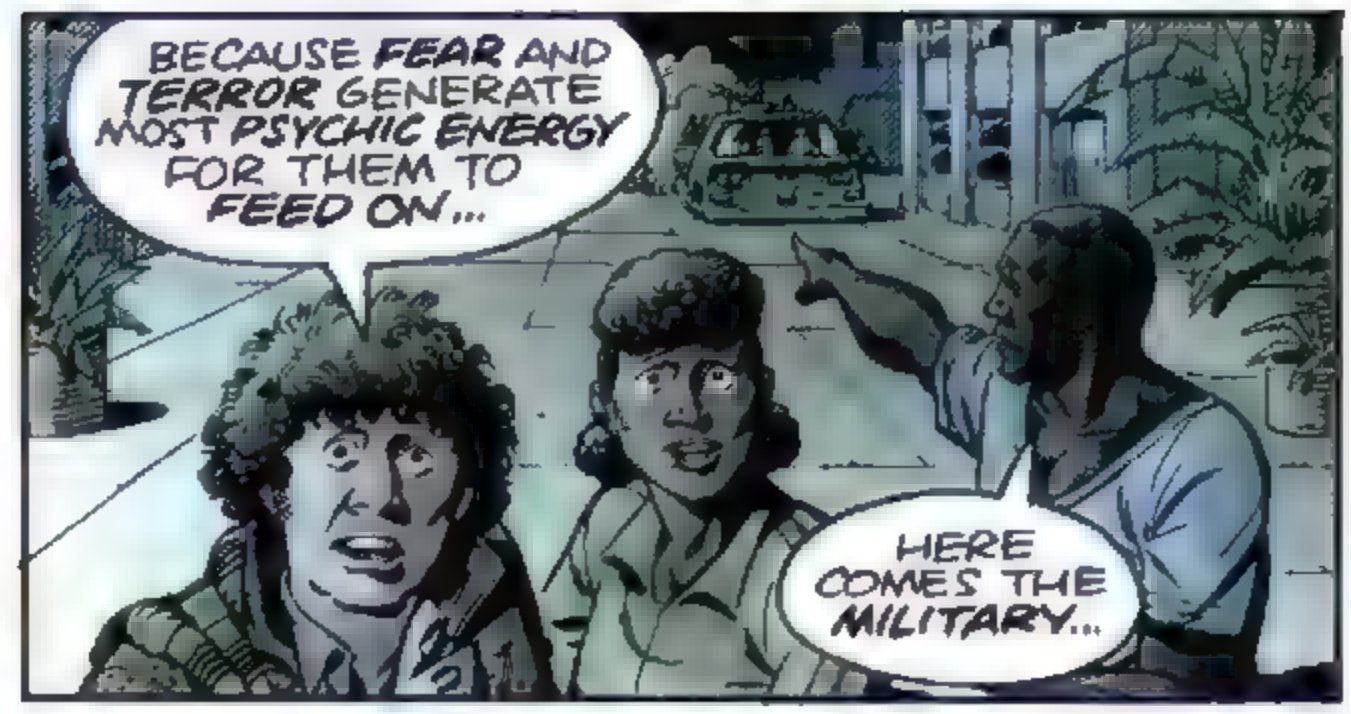
DURING THE DREAMS, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN FEEDING ON PEOPLE'S PSYCHIC ENERGY ... A LITTLE AT A TIME AT FIRST...
UNTIL THEY FELT STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A MASS ATTACK! THEY'RE LIKE PSYCHIC VAMPIRES...

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT...
BUT LIFE'S GOING TO SEEM AWFULLY EMPTY WITHOUT THAT FRIENDLY LITTLE FURBALL SITTING ON MY SHOULDER ...SHARING MY THOUGHTS...


BUT THEN...
RESIDENTS IN THE 4TH AND 5TH DISTRICTS ARE URGED TO EVACUATE THEIR HOMES...
A HUGE UNIDENTIFIED CREATURE HAS BEEN SPOTTED STALKING THE STREETS...
THAT'S THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER...

COME ON SHARON, K-9 ...I'VE GOT A NASTY FEELING ABOUT THIS...
YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR FAMILY HERE, GARRET, WHERE THEY'RE SAFE...
WAIT! I'LL COME WITH YOU..!
AND SOON...
BLIMEY! LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S A HUGE DEVIL... LIKE THEY USED TO BELIEVE IN ON EARTH!

BUT ITS BODY'S MADE UP OF HUNDREDS OF SLINTHS... ACTING TOGETHER AS A GROUP MIND ...WITH A SINGLE BODY
BUT WHY MAKE A DEVIL?


BECAUSE FEAR AND TERROR GENERATE MOST PSYCHIC ENERGY FOR THEM TO FEED ON...
HERE COMES THE MILITARY...

AND WHILE THE SLINTHS WERE IN TELEPATHIC COMMUNION WITH YOU DREAMERS, THEY REACHED BACK INTO YOUR MINDS FOR THE MOST TERRIBLE IMAGE THEY COULD FIND...THE DEVIL!
OKAY, MEN! BLAST IT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

BUT...
IT'S NOT WORKING! WE'RE HITTING IT WITH THORSEN-303'S...AND IT'S JUST SOAKING THEM UP!
IN FACT...IT'S GETTING BIGGER!

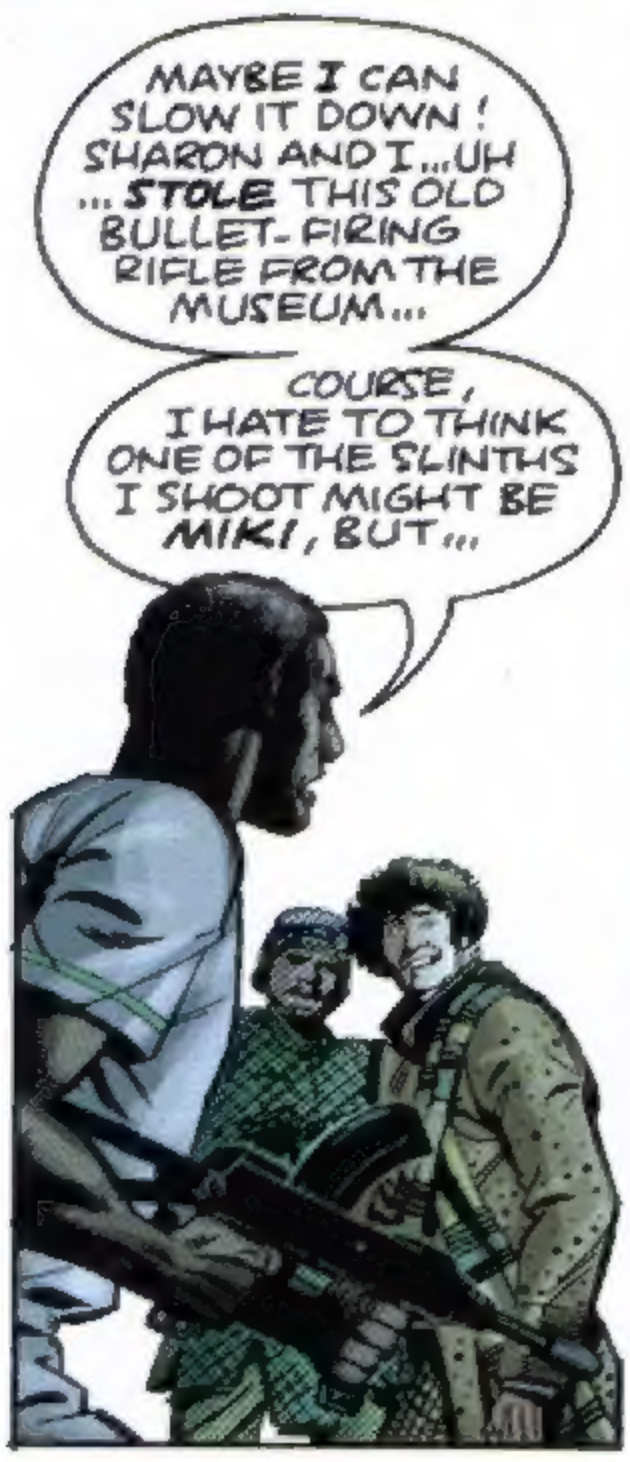
TELL YOUR MEN TO CEASE FIRE, CAPTAIN! THE SLINTHS ARE JUST ABSORBING THE ENERGY!
OLD-FASHIONED PROJECTILE WEAPONS MIGHT WORK, BUT...
COME ON, SHARON... WE'LL BE BACK, DOCTOR...

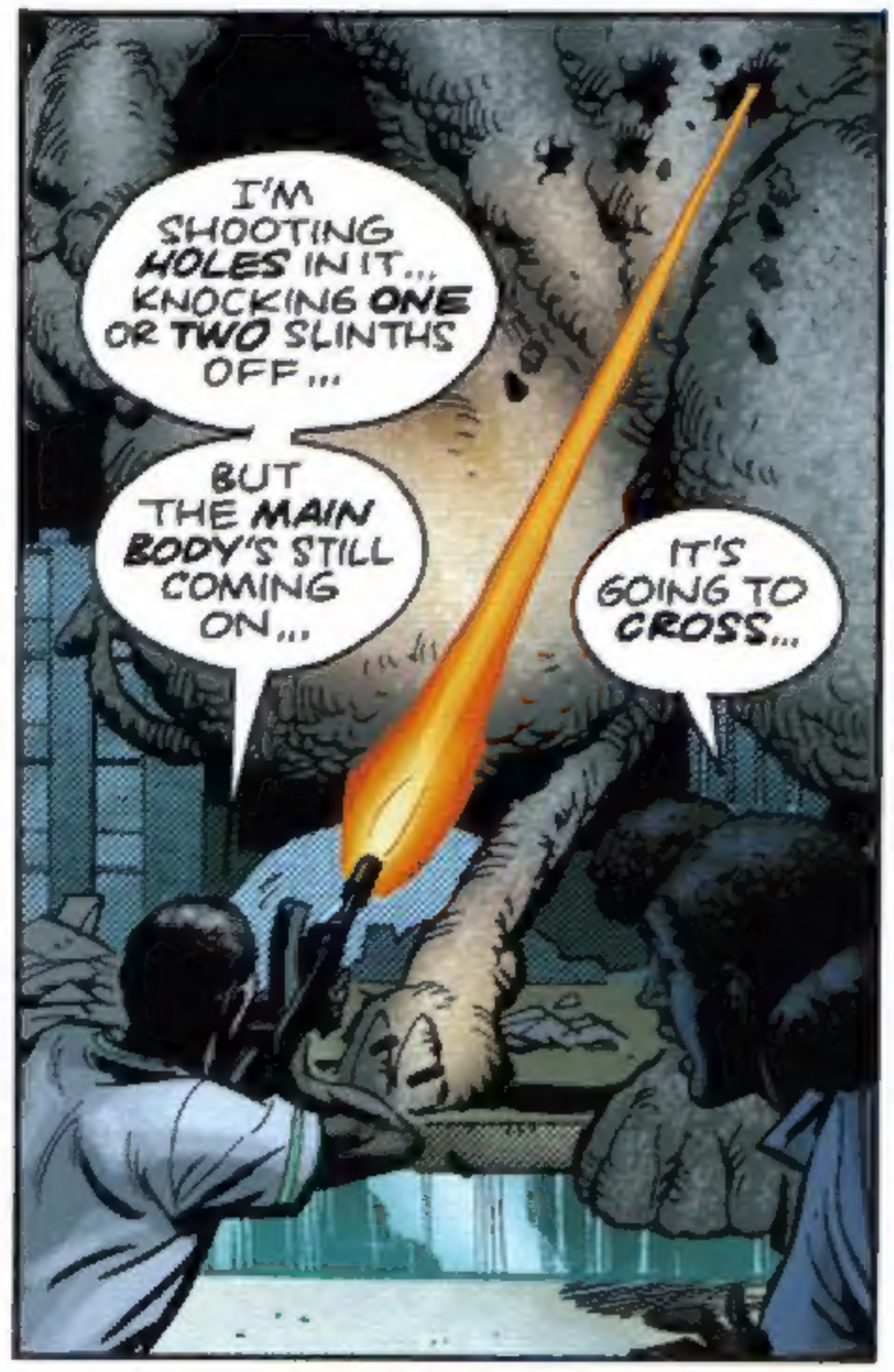
AT LEAST IT SEEMS TO BE STAYING ON THAT SIDE OF THE RIVER...
PERHAPS SLINTHS DON'T LIKE WATER...

IN THE BRIEF LULL THAT FOLLOWS...
WE'VE GOT ALL THE EMERGENCY SERVICES HERE...FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE...
BUT IF THAT THING CROSSES OVER...
CAPTAIN! IT'S MOVING TOWARDS THOSE POWER-LINES!
FIRE
FIRE

IT'S ABSORBING ENERGY FROM THE CABLES! EATING ELECTRICITY!
QUICK! DESTROY THAT PYLON!

AND, AS THORSEN-303'S MELT STRUTS...
SPFAAZZ!
ZZAAF!
THE CABLE'S DOWN...BUT IT'S GOT SO MUCH BIGGER!
MAYBE BIG ENOUGH TO STEP EASILY OVER THE RIVER...


MAYBE I CAN SLOW IT DOWN! SHARON AND I...UH ...STOLE THIS OLD BULLET-FIRING RIFLE FROM THE MUSEUM...
COURSE, I HATE TO THINK ONE OF THE SLINTHS I SHOOT MIGHT BE MIKI, BUT...


I'M SHOOTING HOLES IN IT... KNOCKING ONE OR TWO SLINTHS OFF...
BUT THE MAIN BODY'S STILL COMING ON...
IT'S GOING TO CROSS...

LOOK OUT! SHARON! IT'S TRYING TO CRUSH US!
YI!!!

IT'S ACROSS! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN STOP IT! WE'LL HAVE TO WITH-DRAW!
AHA! OF COURSE... THAT'S WHY THE SLINTHS AVOIDED THE RIVER!
PULL OUT! EVERYONE EVACUATE!

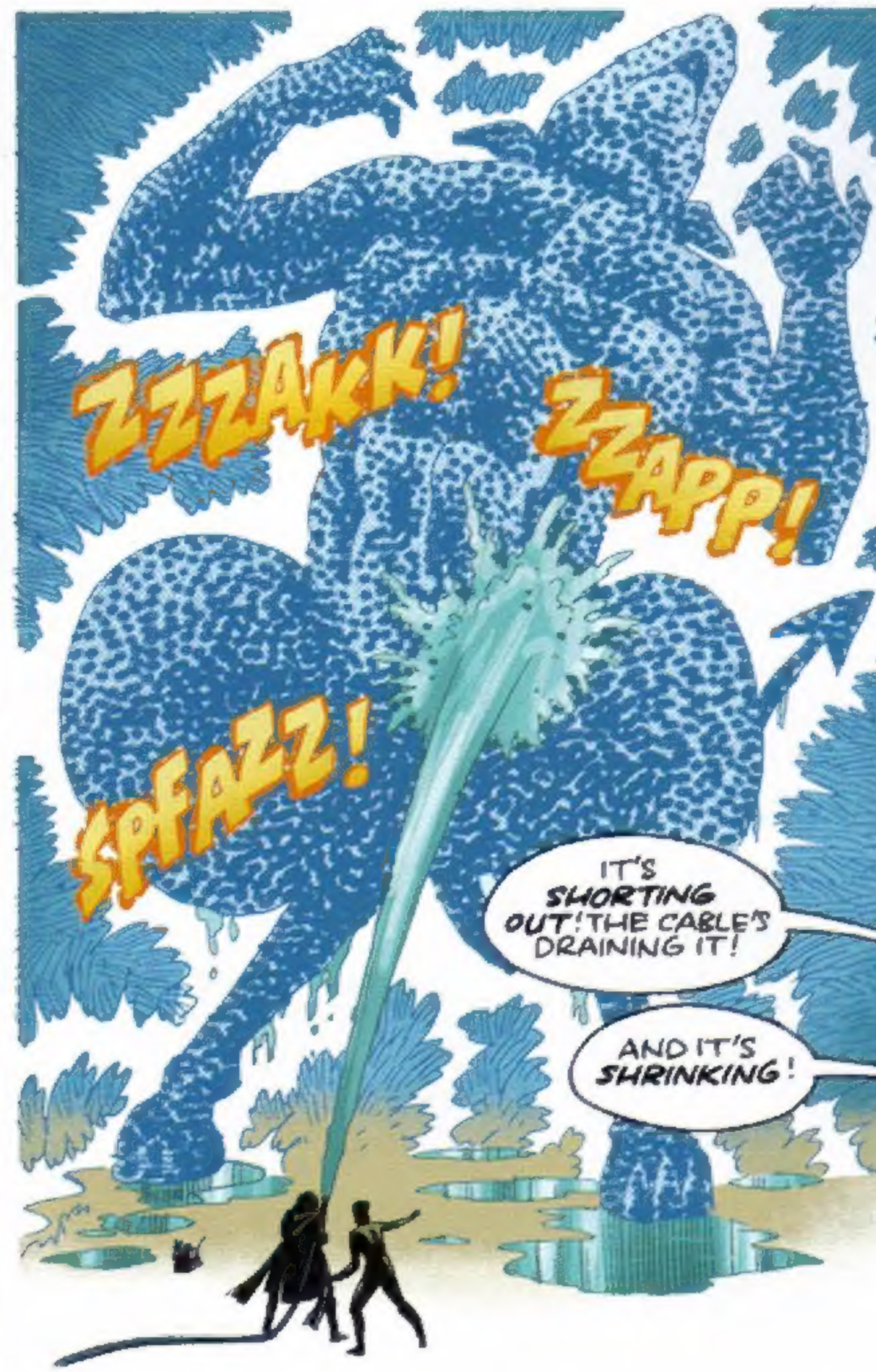
QUICK! GET ME TWENTY YARDS OF BARE CABLE!
NOW, COME HERE, K-9! I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!

AND, INSTANTS LATER...
ALRIGHT, K-9 ...I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS CABLE ...AND HEAD TOWARDS THAT BRUTE...

THEN LOOP IT ROUND THE THING'S ANKLE...

BUT JUST AS K-9 COMPLETES HIS TASK...
HE'S STOPPED, DOCTOR... WHAT'S GONE WRONG?
NO TIME FOR THAT NOW, SHARON...
WHERE'S THAT FIRE-ENGINE?

B-BUT... DOCTOR...?
THAT THING'S BLOATED WITH ELECTRICAL ENERGY...
SO IF I DOUSE IT WITH WATER...

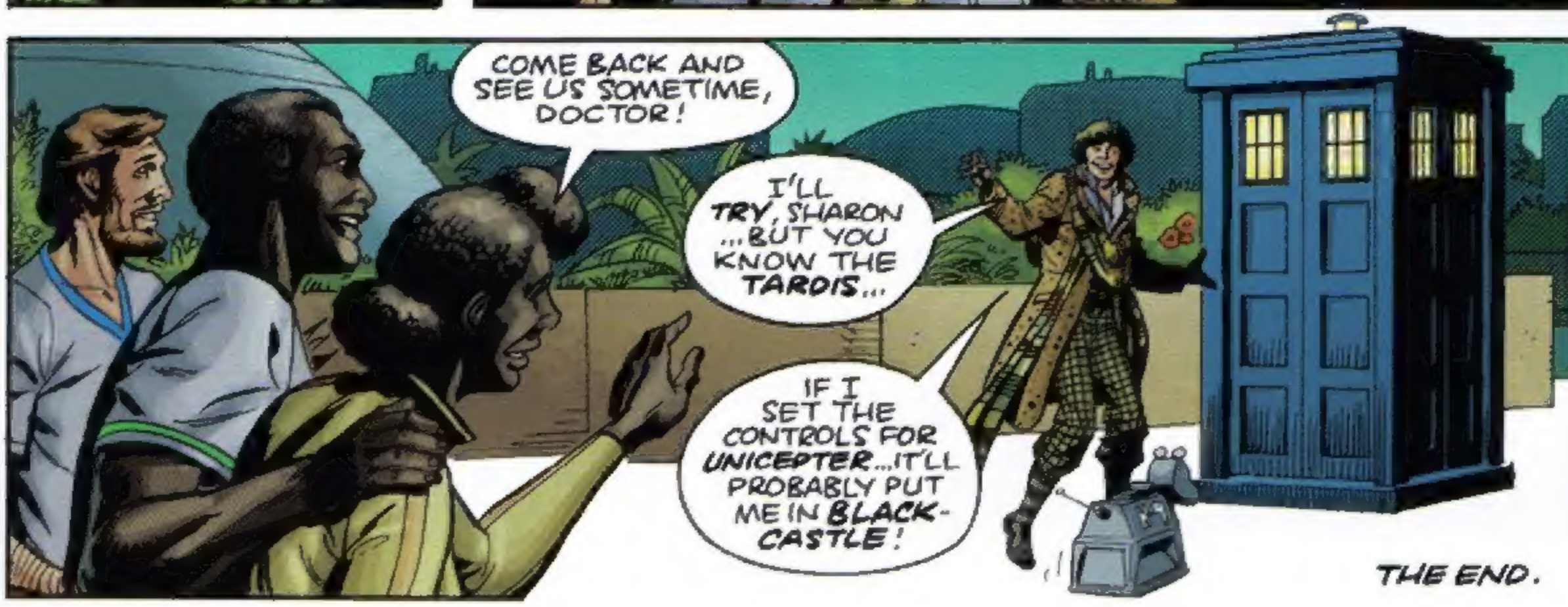

ZZZAKK!
ZZAPP!
SPFAZZ!
IT'S SHORTING OUT! THE CABLE'S DRAINING IT!
AND IT'S SHRINKING!

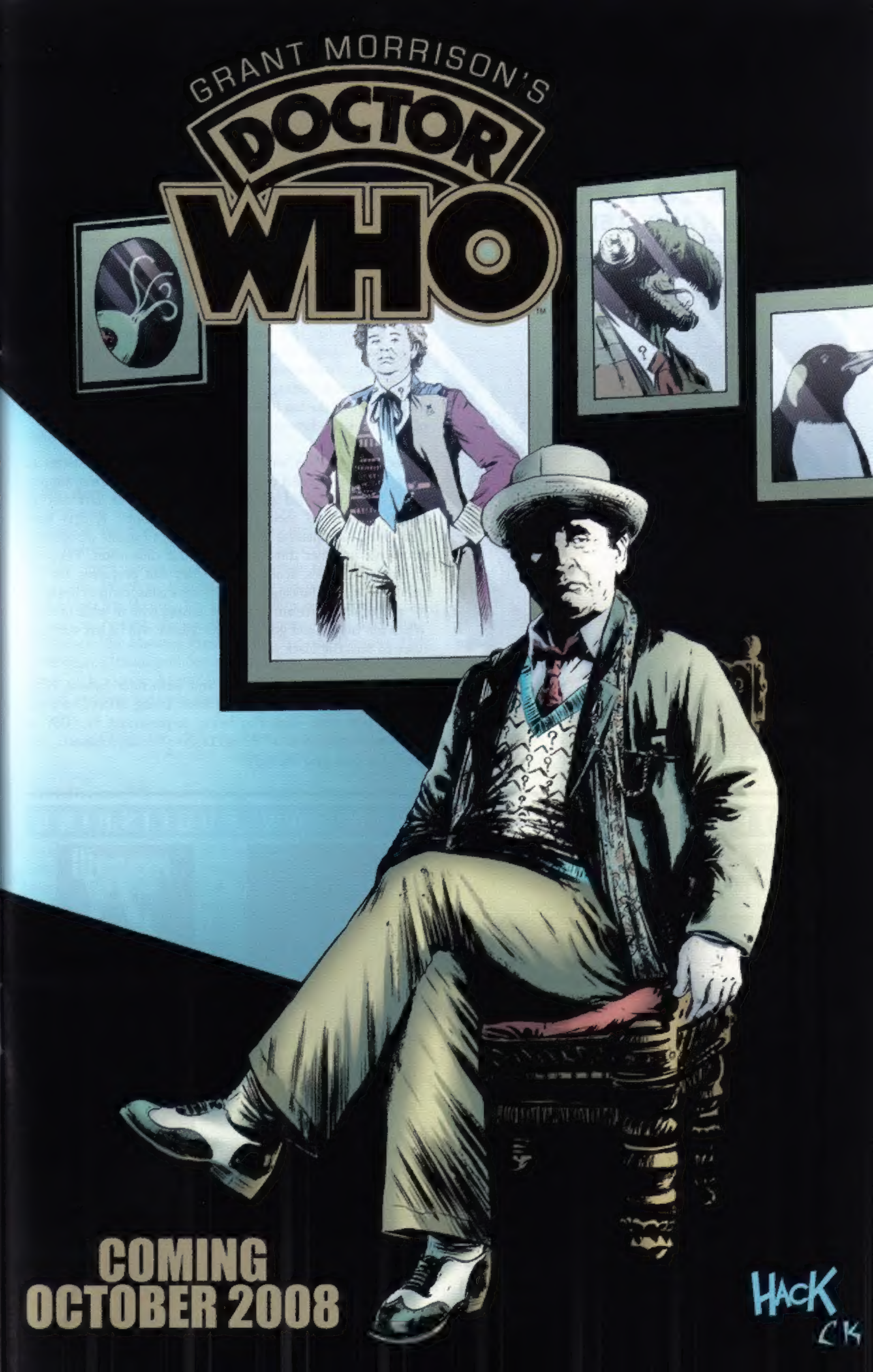
NOW IT'S FALLING APART ...THE SLINTHS ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL SIZE...
WE'LL SOON MOP THEM UP NOW!
FIRE

THANKS, DOCTOR-- WHOEVER YOU ARE...
HOW'S K-9?
HE'LL BE ALRIGHT! THAT THING DRAINED HIS ELECTRICITY, TOO... BUT IT'S JUST A FLAT BATTERY!

AND SO, A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER, AT THE BERRACE'S HOUSE...
IT'S BEEN GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, GARRET... BUT I'D BETTER TRY TO GET SHARON HOME AGAIN...
ER, DOCTOR ...I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE HOME FROM NOW ON...

THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO GO BACK TO BLACKCASTLE FOR...NOT SINCE I GREW UP...
AND VERNOR'S GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR HIMSELF NOW THERE'S NO MORE DREAMING ...SO WE THOUGHT WE'D START TOGETHER...
WE'LL LOOK AFTER HER, DOCTOR, DON'T WORRY...
WELL, I'LL MISS YOU, SHARON...
BUT K-9 AND I HAD BETTER GO...


COME BACK AND SEE US SOMETIME, DOCTOR!
I'LL TRY, SHARON ...BUT YOU KNOW THE TARDIS...
IF I SET THE CONTROLS FOR UNICEPTER...IT'LL PROBABLY PUT ME IN BLACKCASTLE!
THE END.


GRANT MORRISON'S
DOCTOR
WHO
COMING
OCTOBER 2008
HACK